



*City of Arts & Innovation*

# News Release

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## **Riverside to Open Doors to Homeless Campus Pet Kennel May 19**

**RIVERSIDE, Calif.** – Homeless individuals that own pets and receive shelter services will soon have lodging for themselves and their furry friends. A ribbon cutting for the new shelter is scheduled for Thursday, May 19.

The Homeless Campus Pet Kennel is an innovative project that offers lodging for pets belonging to homeless individuals who are receiving services at the Riverside Community Shelter and the Community Access Center. This unique “shelter-within-a-shelter” will be the first of its kind in Riverside County and only the third in the US providing shelter for homeless individuals and their companion animals.

Ward 1 Councilmember Mike Gardner said, “I am very proud that we have reached this milestone. Many homeless people have pets that are their “family” and they are unwilling to be separated from them. Having a pet kennel at the homeless shelter allows people to bring their pets with them when they seek services and consequently allows us to provide services to an entire segment of the homeless population that we previously could not assist. It also offers us an opportunity to help ensure the animals are properly vaccinated and to offer spay and neuter services to control pet overbreeding. This state of the art facility is one more step in Riverside’s trend setting homeless assistance program.”

Funded through HUD’s Community Development Block Grant program, the kennel represents an important element of the City’s Homeless Action Plan. Additional donations came from William (Bill) Allen of Allen Designs, a structural engineer who donated his time and engineering services for consulting and structural drawings; Ecomac Construction who donated labor for the preparation of the concrete disabled access ramp; and County of Riverside Animal Services who donated 18 stainless steel pet cages. Additionally, Ron Mistak of Mistak Group, who fabricated the kennel unit, hired a homeless individual receiving services at the Access Center to assist in the fabrication. That individual continues to be employed with Mistak Group. Riverside will operate the facility in partnership with Path of Life Ministries, Riverside County Animal Control, Mary S. Roberts Pet Adoption Center, and Riverside County Mental Health.

In addition, Riverside Mayor Ron Loveridge said, “This facility is another example of an innovative use of green building processes and materials.” The Homeless Campus Pet Kennel broke ground February 2, 2011 on the approximately 400-square-foot “green” building and will include 18 kennel pods for 12 dogs and six cats. Construction utilized green elements keeping in line with the City’s “Emerald City” designation and includes recycled cotton insulation, solar tube lighting and solar-powered LED lighting, energy efficient HVAC units, recycled concrete counters, and rain water reclamation for landscape.

The new facility is scheduled to open in May, and to officially kick-off the opening of the Homeless Campus Pet Kennel, a ribbon-cutting event is scheduled for **Thursday, May 19, 2011, 10:00 a.m., 2880**

**Hulen Place.** The event is open to the public and free of charge. For more information, email [kthibault@riversideca.gov](mailto:kthibault@riversideca.gov) or call 951-715-3434.